

Letters About Weakness

Lesson Aim: To know God's strength is shown in our weakness as explained in the letters in the Bible.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18

GOT TIME? Letter: Jude 1:24-25

What He has done: God gave His apostles the teachings about weakness.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:7

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 64:8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

The Books of the New Testament

For your own encouragement this week, read Romans 8:22-27. Please join us in praying this week's

Teacher's Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for Your Holy Spirit who shows Your power through our weakness. Help the children recognize Your power through their own weaknesses. Amen."

PREPARE

Highlight in your Bible:

- ☐ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18
- ☐ Isaiah 64:8

Read:

- ☐ Teacher's Guide
- ☐ At-A-Glance

MAILBAG

Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references, fold it and place it in the Teacher's Bible. Place the Teacher's Bible, Pen Pal Letter and an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels in any bag.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, and THE WAY. If time allows, choose a Got Time? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim, or the Bible Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Getting Started—Four pots, an equal amount of treasure in four different colors

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Scripture Reading— Romans 8:26
- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song—"New Testament Overture"
- ☐ Other related music
- ☐ Worship Illustration or Storybook Lesson 28

THE WORD and THE WAY

- ☐ Golden Bowl—pencils & note cards
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Mailbag
- ☐ Daily Way Lesson 28
- ☐ Treasure Treat—Today's New Testament Postcard with a stamp or sticker of a clay pot

GOT TIME?

Any favorite snack served from a clay pot, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, large sheets of sturdy paper, markers or crayons, clay, small candles, shiny craft supplies, ribbon, paper, glue, scissors, paperclips, "New Testament Overture" song, player and poster, flashlights, different versions of the Bible

Resources: The additional resources referred to in this lesson and supplemental materials are available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net. To be a resource yourself, click on the Teacher's Blog tab to share your ideas with teachers worldwide.



1. THE WELCOME

(10 minutes)

Getting Started

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's
Meet & Greet Question: Where do you keep your favorite treasure?

GAME: POTS OF TREASURE

PURPOSE: Children will race to collect treasure to place in their team's pot as they begin to discover that God is the treasure inside their lives.

SUPPLIES: Four pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four different colors (treasures may be candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes etc.)

PREPARE: Scatter an equal amount of treasure in each of the four colors around the play area

DIRECTIONS:

1. Divide children into four teams.
2. Assign a treasure color and give a pot to each team.
3. On your signal, children race to pick up all of their assigned treasure colors and deposit them in their team's pot.
4. The goal is to be the first team to collect all of the treasure in the team's assigned color.

SAY> Today we will read what the New Testament letters say about our weakness and God's strength. Just like our pots are filled with treasures, God's strength is like a wonderful treasure inside us. Let's read our letters and find out how God's strength helps us when we are weak.

***Teacher Tips:** Small groups can play with two teams instead of four. Limited Space? All children are on the same team and must pick up all the treasures on the floor. Play the game twice; timing it each time. Challenge the children to beat their time on the second round of play.



2. THE WORSHIP

(15 minutes)

Worship Theme: The Spirit Who Shows Us

Today we worship the Holy Spirit who shows us that we are weak and God is strong. We can praise Him as the mighty one who helps the weak. God help us in everything. He even helps us to pray when we don't know what to say.

One way we can thank God for helping us is to give our offering. (Sing: "Here I Am To Worship" while collecting the offering.)

Worship Elements:

Designate a special corner or area for worship. Select songs that focus on God's strength and our weakness.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26

Lead a prayer to bless the offering: collect offering

Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:

Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28

Unit 6 Song Suggestions:

- Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song:
"New Testament Overture"
www.childrensministrywarehouse.net
- "To Him Who Sits On The Throne"
www.childrensministrywarehouse.net
- "Not By Might"
www.childrensministrywarehouse.net
- "Awesome God"
- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "Shout To The Lord"
- "Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord"
- "Here I Am To Worship"
- "Forever"
- "Worship You Forever"

Unit 6 Song Collection Suggestions:

- Songs 4 Worship Kids, Volume 1—Awesome God
- Worship Jamz—Volumes 1, 2, 3
- Hillsong Kids
- Shout to the Lord Kids 2

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG



"New Testament Overture"

Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

The Books of the New Testament

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path!

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John.
Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.
Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to
Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians,
First and Second Thessalonians,
First and Second Timothy,
then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James.
Go to First, go to Second Peter.
Go to First, Second, Third John.
Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

(Repeat three times going faster each time.)

*Sheet music and recordings available at
www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.*



3. THE WORD




(5 minutes)

Paul writes about his weakness

Transition: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant. (Read Class Covenant.)

CLASS COVENANT

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my  on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

BIBLE TIMELINE

The New Testament letters were written from circa 37 A.D. to 95 A.D. The Bible Timeline Review activities will resume in Prophets & Promises, Lesson 32 when we complete our ten-week study of the New Testament letters.

(Teacher holds up mailbag.) Last time we found letters about focus in our mailbag. We learned to keep our eyes on Jesus means to focus on who He is and what He wants us to do. Today we will learn how we can see God's power in our weakness.

Everyone has a weakness; even people who spread God's Word and share His love as Paul did. Let's find out what God does with those weaknesses.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. (Hand out spare Bibles.) Today's New Testament letters are in the mailbag. (Teacher opens mailbag and removes Bible, opens Bible and takes out list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.)

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? (Child prays aloud.) Be seated.

Paul taught his friends in Corinth about his own weakness. Listen as I read what Paul said to the Corinthians about that. (Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.)

Earlier in that same letter, Paul explained why his weakness did not make him lose heart or be discouraged. Check it out. (Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.)



4. THE WAY

(13 minutes)

Through our weakness, others see God's strength

(Print the following text on a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope to create the Pen Pal Letter. Take out Pen Pal Letter from mailbag, open the envelope. Remove the letter and read.)

Hey Pals,

Have you ever asked God to heal you or take away a problem you were having? Sometimes God's answer to that prayer comes right away. Sometimes His answer comes along the way. And sometimes God does not answer that prayer until we get to heaven, where all our weaknesses and worries are gone forever!

That's how it was with Paul. In his letter, he told the Corinthians that he prayed three times for God to take away his weakness, but nothing happened. The Bible does not say what Paul's weakness was; he called it "a thorn in his flesh." He was not talking about a real thorn, but about a certain weakness. Sometimes parts of our bodies are weak through sickness or injury. Sometimes something in our bodies or minds has not worked well since we were born. What are some physical weaknesses that we ask God to take away? (Respond.) God is so powerful that He even uses our weaknesses in building His kingdom.

Paul was not discouraged about his unanswered prayer, because he knew that when we are weak, it is easier for others to know that only God is the one with the power. Paul said God put His light into our hearts. (Teacher opens mailbag and removes an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels.) God's light is like this cross and our hearts are like this breakable clay pot.

If we were perfectly strong like a fancy treasure chest with a lock, others might only notice the chest and the lock. But when an old clay pot holds an amazing treasure like this cross, what do you notice most of all? (Respond.) In the same way, others notice God's power in our weakness.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

Over 700 years before Paul compared each believer to a jar of clay with God's treasure inside; Isaiah explained who made us that way.



Everyone place your Bible on your laps. Let's find Isaiah 64:8. (Read Isaiah 64:8.)

A potter is an artist who molds and shapes clay into jars or pots. God has given each of you many different strengths and some weaknesses, too. No matter what your weakness is, the treasure in your heart is God's perfect light that points you and others to Jesus. Let others see that light and know that Jesus is the powerful one, not us!

Believe and Be Light!

Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*

GOLDEN BOWL

Revelation 5:8

The Golden Bowl contains names of classmates, a local church leader and a child in another nation.

The Bible says that our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. So I'm going to lift each one of you up to God's throne out loud as you pray for each person silently. Then we'll pray out loud the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13.) Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say out loud and the ones hidden in our hearts.

First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____ (read names in Golden Bowl).

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

TREASURE TREAT



Today your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a clay pot to remind you that even though we are fragile and weak, when we believe in Jesus, we have God's light inside of us! (Place stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard.) Take it home and create a special mailbox or mailbag where you can collect the remaining postcards. On your postcard, write where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. You'll find the scriptures listed in the Daily Way. Read these scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.



DAILY WAY CHALLENGE

Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? (Praise or reward those who returned Daily Way; collect in basket.) Take home this week's Daily Way. (Distribute Lesson 28 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.) Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Return it and place it in our class basket. When we fill the basket, we'll celebrate with a class surprise!

OFFERING OF ART



Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of God's light shining through an old clay pot.

The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering to the teacher for display.



PRAYER REQUESTS

As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write individual requests in your teacher's prayer notebook.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.



SNACK, GAME, DISCUSSION AND CRAFT

SNACK: POT FULL OF TREASURE

PURPOSE: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

SUPPLIES: Any favorite snack served from a clay pot, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

ASK> Today we are learning that even though we are weak, God is strong. He is a source of strength inside all who believe in Him. Just like this clay pot has a special treasure inside for you to share and eat; God has put a special light inside our hearts so we can share the good news about Jesus with others.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is your favorite treasure?"**

GAME: WHICH ONE IS STRONGER?

PURPOSE: To determine the stronger animal while discussing how God's strength helps them in their weakness.

SUPPLIES: Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers

DIRECTIONS:

1. Choose a few children to be the judges.
2. Divide the remaining children into two teams.
3. Give a stack of paper and a marker to each team.
4. Each team member may have a turn as the team's writer or artist.
5. On your signal, each team secretly chooses a strong animal. The team's writer or artist writes the name or draws a picture of that animal on the paper.
6. Once finished, teams show their paper for the judges to see.
7. Judges decide which animal is stronger. The team with the stronger animal gets a point.
8. Display the animal names and pictures where all can see so teams remember which animals have been selected.
9. Teams choose a new artist or writer and play again as time allows choosing two new animals.

ASK> Sometimes we feel very strong like when we help a smaller sibling or win a team game. But sometimes we feel weak like when things are hard to understand or difficult to do. It's the same way when we talk to people about God. Sometimes it may be easy to share the good news about Jesus or to follow God, but other times we may not be sure about what to say or how to obey God. The good news is, God has all the strength we will ever need and more! When you are weak, God is strong! What is something God can do that you cannot? (Allow child a chance to share his or her answer.) When you feel weak, you can pray and ask God to be strong for you!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—TREASURE POTS

PURPOSE: For children to make pots containing candle treasures to give as encouragement to those who are physically weak.

SUPPLIES: Clay, small candles (stick, votive or tea light), shiny craft supplies (craft jewels, buttons, sequins, glitter, etc.), ribbon, paper, markers or crayons, glue, scissors, paperclips

PREPARE: Choose who will receive the care package: people who are struggling with physical weakness, such as in a hospital or elder care facility. Write where children can see to copy: **God's light shines in you!** and the following letter:

Dear Friend,

"For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Your Friend,

Child signs his or her first name

ASK> Today we learned what the New Testament letters say about weakness. When we are weak, what can we do? (Pray to God for strength. Remember that His light shines in us.)

Let's encourage others who may feel weak and remind them that God is their strength!

SAY> For the next few weeks we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make and give away candles in clay pots to help others know that God is their strength when they are weak. (Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the children. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Form a pot shape out of a handful of clay.
2. Carve the sentence **"God's light shines in you"** into the pot using the tip of a paperclip.
3. Decorate the candle with shiny craft supplies and ribbon.
4. Press the candle into the pot to secure.
5. Make a card to go with your candle. Copy the Bible verse onto paper. Be sure to sign your name!
6. Allow the pots dry and harden.
7. Deliver the gifts!

***Teacher Tips:**

- If possible, take some or all children with you to deliver the care package to the recipient(s). Take pictures for the children to share when delivering the package.
- Pre-write the message on card for younger children to color.
- Large class? Divide children into teams and allow each team to choose a recipient and create a team pot.

***Options:** Make your own clay: visit www.childrensministrywarehouse.net for links to clay recipes. Substitute a special treasure the recipient needs or would appreciate inside the pot instead of the candle.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

DISCUSSION: GOT TIME? LETTER— JUDE 1:24-25

PURPOSE: Children learn of a third letter about God's strength and our weakness.

SUPPLIES: Bible opened to Jude 1:24-25

SAY> Let's read Jude 1:24-25. (Teacher or child volunteers to read Jude 1:24-25.) **Who has the power to keep us from falling and to present us to God?** (Jesus.) **What are we like when we are presented to God?** (Faultless and full of joy.) **Jude offered God praise with words like glory, majesty, power and authority. What words would you use to praise God?** (Respond.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES:

"New Testament Overture"

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and the books of the New Testament sung to the tune of The William Tell Overture: Allegro Vivace

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.
Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians,
First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.
Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

GAME: LIGHT MY PATH

PURPOSE: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

SUPPLIES: "New Testament Overture" song, player and flashlights

DIRECTIONS:

1. Children choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough that the other child can walk in it.

ASK> How did you know where your partner wanted you to go? (By following the lighted path.) Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." **When we read God's Word in the Bible, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEXT BOOK

PURPOSE: Children learn the New Testament books in order.

SUPPLIES: "New Testament Overture" song, player, and poster

SAY> The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let's learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have children sing along as they learn the words.
2. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
3. Children call out the name of the book that comes next. They can refer to the poster if necessary.
4. Play again as time permits.
5. As children learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one child to respond each time you stop the song.

GAME: THE BIBLE IS HOT, HOT, HOT!

PURPOSE: Children learn the New Testament books in order.

SUPPLIES: "New Testament Overture" song and player and poster, Bible

DIRECTIONS:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse as children quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. The child holding the Bible when the song stops is to open the Bible and find the last New Testament book sung in the song as quickly as possible.
5. Play again as time permits.
6. As children learn the books, challenge them by timing the child searching for the book. Encourage children to cheer for each other and try and get a faster time each time they are selected.

***Teacher Tip:** For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag.

DISCUSSION: ALL GOD'S WORD

PURPOSE: For children to recognize there are different versions of the Bible, but it is all God's truth.

SUPPLIES: Different versions of the Bible opened to Psalm 119:105 (NIV, KJV, NLT, NIRV, The Message, etc.)

SAY> Have you ever noticed that even when people speak the same language, they use different words to say the same thing? In the English language, "soda," "soft drink" and "pop" are all words used for the same type of fizzy drink. People who are from different areas use different words and so do people of different ages. In the same way, Bibles use different wordings to say the same thing. For example, in some Bibles Psalm 119:105 uses the words: "Thy word" while other versions use the words: "Your word." Both are true!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read a version of Psalm 119:105 aloud.
2. Read a different version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences.
3. Read a third version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences again.
4. Take a vote to determine the children's favorite version.
5. Read and sing the Bible Memory Verse song according to the King James Version.

***Teacher Tip:** Compare Bible versions of other famous passages such as Psalm 23 and John 3:16.